

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY BANJUL
AMCONSUL BUKAVU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA
AMEMBASSY KIGALI
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
AMEMBASSY PRAIA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING, JUNE 8, 1978

FOLLOWING IS AN UNOFFICIAL, UNCORRECTED EXCERPT FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING. IF NECESSARY OFFICIAL
VERSION WILL FOLLOW.

Q: HODDING, GENERAL GAMASSY, SPEAKING TO REPORTERS THIS
MORNING, CONFIRMED THAT EGYPT HAS SUPPLIED SOME ARTILLERY
PIECES AND SOME TRAINING OFFICERS TO ZAIRE AND TECHNICAL
AID TO SOMALIA. DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANY VIEW ON
THAT ONE?

A: I'M NOT ABLE TO VERIFY HIM RIGHT NOW. I'LL TAKE ANY
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QUESTIONS YOU WANT ON IT AND SEE WHAT MORE I CAN GET.

Q: WELL, IF YOU APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE?

A: WE HAVE NOT REQUESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF EGYPT
TAKE ANY SPECIFIC ACTION. WE HAVE, AS YOU KNOW, ON
SEVERAL OCCASIONS DISCUSSED GENERAL SITUATION DEVELOPMENTS
IN AFRICA. PRESIDENT SADAT HAS SHARED OUR DEEP CONCERN
ABOUT EVENTS ON THE CONTINENT, BUT I DON'T HAVE AN
EXPRESSION TO OFFER ON IT.

Q: LAST NIGHT PRESIDENT SENGHOR OF SENEGAL SAID -- I'M
PARAPHRASING -- THAT ALL THAT HE IS ASKING FROM THE
UNITED STATES IS THAT THE UNITED STATES SUPPLY HIM AND
OTHER AFRICAN LEADERS WITH MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO FIGHT
SOVIET INTERVENTION IN AFRICA.

HAVE WE RECEIVED A FORMAL REQUEST FROM HIM, AND WHAT'S
THE GENERAL ATTITUDE?

A: I'M NOT AWARE OF A FORMAL REQUEST. I WOULD NOTE HE
IS OF COURSE MEETING TODAY, HAS BEEN MEETING, AND WILL

ALSO MEET TOMORROW WITH THE SECRETARY. IF I HAD ANYTHING MORE TO OFFER, I WOULD. I DON'T KNOW OF ANY REQUEST AT THIS POINT.

Q: COULD YOU TAKE IT?

A: WELL, I'LL SEE WHETHER THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN GIVE YOU ON THAT.

Q: COULD YOU PULL TOGETHER, SINCE IT KEEPS COMING UP REPEATEDLY, THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE SOVIET UNION IS PROVIDING WEAPONS TO THE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES IN AFRICA?

A: I'LL SEE.
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Q: WOULD YOU HAVE A RUNDOWN IF THAT WERE POSSIBLE, WITH SOME COMPARISON TO THE RATE OF FLOW THAT MIGHT HAVE TAKEN PLACE, SAY FIVE YEARS AGO?

Q: ON AFRICA, ON MAY 30TH, SENATOR ROBERT BYRD SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOW OUR DISPLEASURE WITH CUBA AND THE USSR'S ACTIVITIES BY CLOSING DOWN THE CUBAN MISSION, AMONG OTHER THINGS. I BELIEVE SENATOR BAKER HAS JOINED IN THAT SUGGESTION, AS HAVE OTHER INFLUENTIAL SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN. IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT OR THE ADMINISTRATION GIVING ANY THOUGHT TO THE VIEWS AND SUGGESTIONS OF THESE INFLUENTIAL SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN?

A: WE ALWAYS TAKE SUCH SUGGESTS UNDER CONSIDERATION. I DO NOT KNOW OF ANY PLANS TO CLOSE DOWN THE INTERESTS SECTION.

Q: PRESIDENT SENGHOR OF SENEGAL LAST NIGHT SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD TO PROVIDE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITH SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS IN ORDER TO FIGHT THE SOVIET, CUBAN AND EAST GERMAN THREAT. DOES THE ADMINISTRATION AGREE WITH HIM THAT IT OUGHT TO CHANGE ITS ARMS POLICY?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS.

Q: CAN YOU TAKE THE QUESTION?

A: WELL, NO. I MEAN, REALLY, I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON WHAT HE HAD TO SAY. OUR POLICY, WHICH WE'VE OUTLINED, I THINK IS FAIRLY CLEAR.

Q: I JUST WANTED TO EXPAND, IF MARVIN DOESN'T MIND, ON A
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RUNDOWN OF SOVIET ARMS TO AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS -- TO MAKE IT SOVIET BLOC, BECAUSE SOME OF THAT STUFF CAME FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND OTHER PLACES.

A: NO. WE HAVE CONSIDERABLE DIFFICULTY, AS YOU KNOW, EVEN IN COMPILING AN ACCURATE RECORD FOR COMPARATIVE PURPOSES OF ARMS EXPORTS BY THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHERS FOR REASONS RANGING FROM DEFINITION TO CONDUITS FOR SUCH ARMS: BUT I DON'T KNOW. I'LL JUST SEE WHAT WE CAN DO.

Q: THERE WAS A REPORT LAST NIGHT ABOUT THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAVING CAPTURED ABOUT 50 CUBANS IN ANGOLA AND I GUESS MOZAMBIQUE. ARE WE AWARE OF THAT AND ARE WE AWARE WHAT THEY ARE SAYING?

A: WE ARE AWARE OF THE REPORT.
WE ARE AWARE OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN'S DENIAL. WE DO NOT KNOW OF OUR OWN KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SUCH WHOLESALE BAG OF CUBANS BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

Q: DO YOU KNOW OF ANY CUBAN PRISONERS AT ALL BEING HELD BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS?

A: I NOTE THE SOUTH AFRICANS SAY THEY HAVE THREE PRISONERS OF WAR GOING BACK TO THE ANGOLA INVOLVEMENT, BUT WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY BEYOND THAT.

I WOULD THINK IT WOULD BE HIGHLY UNUSUAL, QUITE FRANKLY, IF THERE WERE THAT MANY. VANCE

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